

Askew Site Tour

Thursday, June 2, 2011

5:30 -7:30pm

14+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DC)

Site Significance

- Hard knowing the building is being abandoned
- Three generations of family that attended here
- Lots of attempted vandalism
- Lots of activity
- Homeless kids slept in building during the winter; neighbors saw them leave building in the mornings with the backpacks as they went to catch the school bus
- Father went to school here
- Provided the original design for mosaic of children in the atrium

Strengths

- Long-term community
- Strong vibrant community
- Security patrols a lot
- Basketball court
- Families are coming back
- In good shape
- Plenty of parking
- Electricity has not been vandalized
- Diverse community
- Building is handicap-accessible
- Built to public code
- Multipurpose usage
- Plumbing in the classrooms
- Versatile for multi age levels

Challenges (Interim Solutions in blue)

- No parking signs, upkeep of lawn, yellow lines
- City not taking care of Blue Valley Park (Possible partnership with Audubon Society, Vote in Community improvement District, possible partnerships with local business, leverage with KCSD)
- Forgotten neighborhood (Possible partnership with Audubon Society, Vote in Community improvement, possible partnerships with local business, leverage with KCMSD)

- Security walks around building, but not really investigate (KCMSD security should patrol at random times , possible KCPD Patrol on foot, KCMSD security should consult with neighbors)
- Maintenance of property by KCMSD, cut grass (Regular grass cuts)
- Not many children in neighborhood
- Lot of vacant houses
- Historic label would limit repurpose
- Topping Street is challenge because it is narrow and hilly
- Snow clearance on area roads is not as good since school closed

Community Needs

- Staying in community important, want a seniors living facility/housing here
- Entertainment
- Shops/grocery stores
- Beauty
- Jobs
- Health clinics
- Transportation
- Somewhere for kids to learn
- Safe haven for kids
- Computer training
- Child care
- ELL services
- Community center that provides info and able to mobilize
- Community
- Meeting spot for neighborhood associations
- Activities for youth
- Emergency shelter
- Housing (upscale)

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Senior facility
- City parks
- Nonprofits
- Community center
- Service center for many agencies (one stop shop for services)
- Resource center
- Senior and youth center
- Retail shops
- Tornado shelter included in the multipurpose of building
- Housing development

Community Response to Informal Proposals

If site can't be maintained prefer vacant lot

Possible homeless teens housing

There is no good reason for demolition

Focus on someone who can really make it happen with a plan

We are concerned that the building going to the highest bidder could be a salvage deal

Best use of building is preferred

Senior housing is okay, but we should be mindful of other needs and creating a vibrant community

Not a good area for group homes

Parking Lot (Technical or other questions to address at the next meeting)

- How many children are in the community?
- Community demographics?